

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 15. 1710.

IN my last, I argued against your running down the *Credit* of Publick Affairs, by Consequences drawn from Reason, and your own Interest — Now I must come nearer to the Point, and I must argue the like, from that just concern every honest Man ought to have for his Native Country; and really, Gentlemen, now is the time to try, if there is any such thing, as a *Publick Spirit* in the World.

I expect to be laugh'd at here by a Party, that in the abundance of their Wit tell us, that the Words *Whigg*, and *Publick Spirit*, are incongruous; that the Things are perfectly remote, like *Irisb Oak* and a *Spider*, they won't subsist together. — That by

our own Confession, we have it not, that 'tis not in the Nature of a *Whigg*, to be Generous, Self-denying, or to act with a publick Spirit; and that all that have been Ingenious among the *Whiggs*, have own'd it.

Now really the other Party have made it appear, that they are of another Opinion — Since some People seem to Act upon a Presumption, that 'tis otherwise, and that the *Whiggs* will come in upon publick Principles; and this gives an Occasion, both to me to press the Practice, and the World to bear Witness of the Performance.

I have Examined the Case of the publick Affairs, upon the great Change her Majesty

esty has now made in the Ministry, and upon the View of what is to come —

The sinking of publick Credit, running down our Funds, and the Value of Stocks; I have shewn you *what this is*, how 'tis only sinking your own Estates, and playing the Game into the Hands of your Enemies; lopping your own Trees, and giving the Bavins to your Neighbours — The Consequence of which, is nothing but leaving your selves bare.

I come now to a second Argument, from a Principle, which I confess is much out of Date, and bears but a low Price among us, and that is a publick Spirit — Running down the publick Credit, is running down the Nation, 'tis sinking the General Interest, Sacrificing Religion, Property, Revolution, Union, Succession, every thing; in short, it is giving us up to *France*.

Now let things go never so Cross to our Inclinations; let her Majesty put out who she pleases, and put in who she pleases; tho' we may be Chagrin, tho' we may be Uneasie, tho' we may Dislike, and be Perplex'd about it, nay, tho' we were to suffer by it — Yet bold Gentlemen, in your Anger take this Wisdom with you — We must not be given up to *France*; this is like old Sir Thomas Hide, who having built him a very fine House, Finish'd it, Carv'd it, Painted it, Planted the Gardens, and made it very Pleasant — Because some-body offer'd, a certain Nameless Coartempt to it — Would never let it be Inhabited by himself, or any Body else; till at last it came to Rot, and be good for nothing, and his Posterity were forc'd to pull it down.

What has rais'd the Hopes of the French King, but that upon this Alteration, our Credit should Sink, and then the Game was his own? Now the Alteration is made — And if you let this Credit Sink, truly the Game will be his own; wherefore, let the Ministry be Chang'd, or not Chang'd; let the publick Affairs go into what Hands they will, whether you like the Change, or no — Your Concern for the Nation must not lessen, nor must you do any thing, that may let in a Bloody, Popish, and Faithless Tyrant upon *Europe*, and upon the Protestant

Interest — And this is what I call a PUBLICK SPIRIT.

I should be very sorry, to see a Tory Administration; I should think it a Melancholly View of Things, to see the old Game of Persecution, reviv'd among us; to see the Tolleration broken in upon, the Union Invaded, the *Whiggs* Trampled upon, the *Dissenters* Harra's'd and Plunder'd, as I have seen it; nor indeed do I yet see it — But were it to be so, if it must come to that hard Choice, I had rather see all this, than *France* Triumphant, the Queen Dethron'd, the Pretender Establish'd, and Popery Erected — I had rather the Queen (God preserve her Majesty from that Suggestion) should TYRANNIZE over me, than the Pretender — I had rather a Tory Government, than a French Government — Tho' the difference may be small, yet there is a difference; I had rather have the *High-Church* Maul me, than the *Popish Church* Massacre me; the *High-Flyers* Abuse me, than the *Papists* Burn me — In short, we have but one Interest, as *English Men*, whatever Interest we may have, as Party-Men — And tho' I abhor the Tyrannical Principles, of some People among us; yet when it comes to this, *England* or *France*, the Queen or the Pretender, the Church of *England* or the Church of *Rome* — The Case quite alters, and the Choice is easie to an Honest Man.

Wherefore, let who will be at the Head of Management, let the publick Credit be in what Hands it will, while this depends upon it, that the Nation must be sav'd or lost — Gentlemen *High-Flyers*, I must come in to you; with *Solomon's* Harlot, you shall have all the Child, rather than Kill it — Not that you are in the least beholden to me — But any thing rather than *France*. or any thing rather than Popery.

And thus it is, in the Case of CREDIT — The *Whiggs* must continue to support CREDIT; Why? Not that they will be pleas'd a jot the better with the Grand Affair — But the Nation is at Stake, the Nation must not be given up — The Confederacy must not be abandon'd, Arms must not be Dishonourably laid down — This would be to pull our own Houses down

down with a Witness, this would be to give us all up to *France*.

I know not *who*, or *what* they are, her Majesty *has or will*, put in to Trust, I am not talking of Persons, or of Parties, here

But if the Grand Seigneur's *Musty* were to come hither, and be Prime Minister ; If the four *Indian Salvages*, we call'd *Kings*, were to be Commissioners ; yet if these applied themselves diligently, and faithfully, to carry on the War, support the Confederacy, oppose *France*, and defend us against the Pretender, God forbid any *Whigg* should be found, that would not join with them, *because he did not like the Men* ; no, no, Gentlemen, the Nation must not be given up to *France*, the *Jacobites* must not have their Bads of us so. If a new Ministry carries on the true Interest, if they prosecute Vigorously the great Ends of the War ; If they apply the Treasure to the true End, for which the Nation has given it — Tho' we were Discontent at the Remove, we must be pleased with the Measures ; for the Goodness of an Action, is not at all alter'd by the Character or Party, of the Person Acting — So far as they Act upon publick Principles, so far we must, upon the same publick Principle, join with them : The General Interest of Liberty, is a Trust among us all in common, he that promotes it, I'll set my Hand to help him, let his Principles be what they will ; for this is the Maxim I adhere to, *The Nation must not be given up*.

I bring this back to the Point in Hand, the *Whiggs* have as great a Share in the publick Vessel, the Government, as any Body has ; they are Embark'd in the same Ship (the Nation) with you all — Tho' the Managing the *Helm*, is taken from them, and they are not pleased ; yet shall they refuse to Hand the Sails, or Work the Pumps ? No, no, let the Justice of taking the Rudder out of their Hands, and all their Sailing Divisions be decided, when the Owners come to see the Particulars — And when the Voyage is over — But the Ship must be Sailed, the Voyage must be perform'd, or else all is lost — When

the Springs a Leak, every Man's Life is in equal Danger ; the Sea if it comes in with Devour all alike ; shall any Man say to the Commander, you took me from the Steerage, or me from the Great Cabbin, and have turn'd me afore the Mast, among the common Sailors, and therefore Sink, or Swim, I'll not Pump ?

I confess, Gentlemen, this is a Time of Tryal, and all you publick Principles, will now find Room for Exercise — I may Descend afterwards, to Examine our Objections, and Exceptions, to Persons, to Methods, to Securities, to every thing ; but at present I'll return to the Allegory ; The Nation is a Ship, a long and dangerous Voyage she has to go, a great many Pyrates lie in wait for her, she has sprung a great Leak, and the Seas are very Tempestuous, full of Rocks and Shoals, and dangerous Gulphs — And we are all Embark'd ; our Religion, our Liberty, our Estates, our Posterity, are all on Board ; we were Quarter'd with Honour and Advantage, by the Commander, had the Piloting-part in our Hands, and we made fair Weather enough, beat all the Pyrates we met with, weather'd every Dangerous Land, escaped every Shoal, made iresh-Way, and was as we thought, in sight of the Port — Had a View of making a Prosperous Voyage, and enjoying the Profits of it in Peace.

But here has happened a Storm, has driven us off to Sea again ; the Pyrates appear as Numerous as ever — The Weather is Dark, and we have lost Sight of the Haven we were Steering for ; and which we thought was so near — The Ship has sprung a Leak, and is in Danger of sinking ; and which we think makes it the worse, the Commander is Displeased with us, Distrusts us, has taken us from the Management, put us under the Command of others, and made us all Foremast Men again — Well, What must we do ?

May we say to the Commander, or to his new Officers — We'll not be concern'd — Go, Work the Ship your Selves, we'll not Hand the Sails, we won't heave the Lead, we will Pump no more ? — What will be the End of this ? Can we swim with-
out

out the Ship? — Shall not we Drown; when the Ship Sinks? shall not we be all off together? — The Thing is plain, we are all in a Bottom; tho' I don't like the Crew, *I won't sink the Ship*; tho' I think I am Wrong'd, or Injur'd, I'll rather be Oppress'd, than have all Drowned; I'll

do my best to save the Ship; I'll Pump and Heave, and Haul, and do any thing I can, tho' he that pulls with me were my Enemy; the Reason is plain, *We are all in the Ship*, and must Sink and Swim together.

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